

**Version with markings to show changes made**

Please amend the following paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 below  
Genomic and cDNA clones:

One million plaques of a mouse genomic library (bacteriophage library from strain SVJ129, Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) and one hundred thousand plaques of a *D. melanogaster* genomic library were screened with corresponding cDNA probes. Clones were purified and DNA was isolated. Sequencing was carried out using Perkin Elmer thermal cyclers and ABI 377 automated DNA sequencers. DNA pools from a human BAC library (Research Genetics, Huntsville, AL) were screened by PCR with *NIT1* primers (TCTGAAACTGCAGTCTGACCTCA (SEQ ID NO:2) and CAGGCACAGCTCCCCTCACTT (SEQ ID NO:3)) according to the supplier's protocol. The DNA from the positive clone, 31K11, has been isolated using standard procedures and sequenced. Chromosomal localization of the human *NIT1* gene was determined using a radiation hybrid mapping panel (Research Genetics) according to the supplier's protocol and with the same primers as above. To map murine *Nit1* gene, Southern blot analysis of genomic DNA from progeny of a (*AEJ/Gn-a bp<sup>H</sup>/a bp<sup>H</sup>* x *M. spretus*)F1 x *AEJ/Gn-a bp<sup>H</sup>/a bp<sup>H</sup>* backcross was performed using a full length murine *Nit1* cDNA probe. This probe detected a unique 2.0 kb *Dra*I fragment in *AEJ* DNA and a unique 0.75 kb fragment in *M. spretus* DNA. Segregation of these fragments were followed in 180 N2 offspring of the backcross. Additional Mit markers (*D1Mit34*, *D1Mit35*, and *D1Mit209*) were typed from DNA of 92 mice by using PCR consisting of an initial denaturation of 4 minutes at 94°C followed by 40 cycles of 94°C for 30 seconds, 55°C for 30 seconds and 72°C for 30 seconds. Linkage analysis was performed using the computer program SPRETUS MADNESS: PART DEUX. Human and mouse *NIT1* expressed sequence tag (EST) clones were purchased from Research Genetics. The sequences of human and murine *NIT1* genes and cDNAs and *D. melanogaster* and *C. elegans Nit-Fhit* cDNAs have been deposited in GenBank (accession nos. AF069984-AF069989).

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11. The nucleic acid of claim 10 in which the Nit1\_protein is a human Nit1 protein.

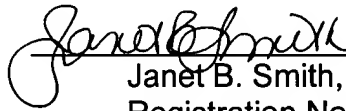
Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlo CROCE, et.al.

8/21/01  
Date

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